

CLASSIFICATION **[REDACTED]**COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT **[REDACTED]**TOPIC General Information from the Area of Mechanized Division Potsdam

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EVALUATION **[REDACTED]**PLACE OBTAINED **[REDACTED]**

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DATE OF CONTENT **[REDACTED]**

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DATE OBTAINED **[REDACTED]**DATE PREPARED 17 March 1955

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REFERENCES **[REDACTED]**

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PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) **[REDACTED]**REMARKS **[REDACTED]**

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. On several occasions between 8 and 17 February 1955, about 500 KVPs were observed at formal drill in the area of the former Oranienburg concentration camp, while 2 T-34 tanks and 2 BA-64s were observed at driving practice in the wooded area between Sachsenhausen and Fichtengrund. On 10 February 1955, 4 new trucks carrying 4 light AA guns entered the installation. ¹
2. From 2 to 19 February 1955, the occupation of the concentration camp with KVPs wearing blue and black-bordered blue collar patches was as previously observed. On 14 and 19 February 1955, no activity was observed in the area of the installation. ¹
3. In the night of 3 February 1955, a night exercise which involved KVPs and Soviet soldiers was held north of the Schmachtenhagen - Wensickendorf road. At about 0530 on 4 February 1955, 10 armored personnel carriers occupied by KVPs travelled toward the concentration camp, while at about 0600 ten other armored personnel carriers occupied by Soviet soldiers were parked on the same road. At about 1100, a T-34 tank occupied by KVPs travelled from the concentration camp toward Lehnitz, while at about 1900 about 5 or 6 tanks travelled from the installation toward Bernoewe. ¹
4. On 17 February 1955, all roads leading from the Oranienburg - Schmachtenhagen road to the south were cordoned off by KVP sentries. A medium AA battery of 4 guns, an AA machine gun and a fire director was observed in emplacements just south of Schmachtenhagen. Several tents were observed close to the emplacements. A similar battery was observed in emplacements in the open terrain just east of Schmachtenhagen. Numerous KVPs were observed in both emplacement groups. The two batteries allegedly moved into their emplacements in the forenoon of 17 February 1955. Before nightfall, numerous motor vehicles, 4 field kitchens whose smokestacks emitted smoke and an undetermined number of KVPs were observed in the wooded area south of the Oranienburg - Schmachtenhagen road. At 0700 on 18 February, the emplacements were found abandoned. The tracks of the motor vehicles led to Oranienburg. Two KVPs who had been left behind with a truck said that they had come with their

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unit from Potsdam. At about 1100 on 17 February 1955, a platoon of Soviet soldiers and a sedan which was occupied by Soviet officers were observed at the branch to Lehmkuhlengestell. 1 and 2

5. During the week from 14 to 20 February 1955, tank exercises and tank firing practices were held daily by KVPs at the Lehnitz artillery range. In the morning, about 10 to 15 T-34/85 tanks, 2 trucks each occupied by 15 KVPs and 1 truck loaded with a field kitchen travelled from the Oranienburg concentration camp toward the Lehnitz artillery range. 1

6. On 17 February 1955, 10 trucks each occupied by 10 to 15 KVPs who wore medium-blue collar patches travelled from the concentration camp toward Havelhausener Bruecke. On 18 February 1955, 22 trucks which came from the direction of Havelhausener Bruecke travelled toward the concentration camp. Each truck was occupied by 5 to 10 men who wore light-blue collar patches. Sixteen trucks towed medium, allegedly 76-mm AA guns. 2

7. Starting at 0300 on 18 February 1955, all KVP units left the former concentration camp as part of a final exercise which was held in the area of Forst Liebenwalde (forest) and Forst Borgsdorf (forest). The last units left the installation at about 1100. The units returned to their billets between 1700 on 19 February and the morning of 20 February 1955. [redacted] the exercise also involved the AAA units which were located in the castle. 1 and 2

8. At about 1700 on 10 February 1955, Soviet trucks [redacted] and an armored scout car, [redacted] left the Soviet ammunition depot and travelled toward Schmachtenhagen. [redacted]

9. A KVP officer said that most troops of the Potsdam station were in a tent camp on 12 February 1955 in connection with an exercise. On 19 February 1955, the troops who were allegedly scheduled to return to their barracks installations on 16 February were still in a camp near Oranienburg. A letter which this officer dispatched from the camp indicated that it was very cold, particularly at night, since they bivouacked in tents. The Soviets said the troops should seize this opportunity of hardening themselves. 3

10. On various occasions between 10 and 22 February 1955, all barracks installations in the station area were apparently occupied only slightly. Activities observed were limited to formal drill below or at platoon level, instruction, and fatigue duty. Trucks which were loaded with rations in the barracks installations were frequently observed leaving toward Bornstedt - Oranienburg. 2

11. On 27 January 1955, a forester from the Wudicke area said that the Soviets had again cordoned off the Ferchels - Mahlitz training grounds for the period from 26 January to 28 February 1955. KVP units held firing practices with guns at the training grounds. Soviets were allegedly present at all times. 4

12. On 15 February 1955, a KVP column of 8 trucks each of which towed a 120-mm mortar and 6 other trucks each occupied by 20 to 25 men passed through Moegelin. The motor vehicles came from the direction of Rathenow and proceeded toward Premnitz. 5

13. On 2 February 1955, the Kirchmoeser KVP Kaserne still quartered a KVP engineer unit of an estimated 150 men who wore blue-bordered black collar patches. 6

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1. Comment. The medium tank regiment and the 1st Mech Regt of Mechanized Division Potsdam are stationed at the former Oranienburg concentration camp. The exercises which were uniformly started on 2 February 1955 apparently came to a provisional end with the final exercise on 20 February 1955. Although Soviet units have been observed in the same maneuver area as early as 2 February 1955, no reports on joint firing practices or exercises of KVPs and Soviets in this area have been received. 25X1
2. Comment. For the time being, the appearance of a total of 16 medium AA guns, that is to say of 4 medium AA batteries, cannot be explained, all the more so as the soldiers allegedly wore blue instead of red bordered black collar patches. It is believed that they did not belonged to the command area of Mechanized Division Potsdam. As the exercises have allegedly also involved the AAA officers' school, it would be possible that the guns belonged to this school; the number of guns, however, is regarded as too large, even considering the potential presence of a medium instruction battery for an officers' training course. It is thought hardly likely that component units of the Soviet AAA regiment from the Weisse Stadt have erroneously been reported as KVP units. The appearance of these guns is possibly connected with the light AA guns reported from the former concentration camp and eventually even with the newly activated AAA regiment in Eggersdorf. 25X1
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3. Comment. It is noted that since about 12 February 1955 the units from Potsdam should have been in another tent camp although they allegedly returned from the Kliest training grounds as late as between 5 and 8 February 1955. Should this information be correct the units presumably also participated in the final exercises by the units from Oranienburg. 25X1
4. Comment. Reference is made to previous reports on joint firing practices of the KVP and the Soviets at this artillery range. 25X1
 Mortar firing practices have been held as early as from 26 to 31 January 1955. 25X1
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6. Comment. The present report confirms the engineer battalion of Mechanized Division Potsdam in Kichmoeser. 25X1

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2. From 2 to 19 February 1955, the occupation of the concentration camp with KVPs wearing blue and black-bordered blue collar patches was as previously observed. On 14 and 19 February 1955, no activity was observed in the area of the installation. ¹

3. In the night of 3 February 1955, a night exercise which involved KVPs and Soviet soldiers was held north of the Schmachtenhagen - Wensickendorf road. At about 0530 on 4 February 1955, 10 armored personnel carriers occupied by KVPs travelled toward the concentration camp, while at about 0600 ten other armored personnel carriers occupied by Soviet soldiers were parked on the same road. At about 1100, a T-34 tank occupied by KVPs travelled from the concentration camp toward Lehnitz, while at about 1800 about 5 or 6 tanks travelled from the installation toward Bernowwe. ¹

4. On 17 February 1955, all roads leading from the Oranienburg - Schmachtenhagen road to the south were cordoned off by KVP sentries. A medium AA battery of 4 guns, an AA machine gun and a fire director was observed in emplacements just south of Schmachtenhagen. Several tents were observed close to the emplacements. A similar battery was observed in emplacements in the open terrain just east of Schmachtenhagen. Numerous KVPs were observed in both emplacement groups. The two batteries allegedly moved into their emplacements in the forenoon of 17 February 1955. Before nightfall, numerous motor vehicles, 4 field kitchens whose smokestacks emitted smoke and an undetermined number of KVPs were observed in the wooded area south of the Oranienburg - Schmachtenhagen road. At 0700 on 18 February, the emplacements were found abandoned. The tracks of the motor vehicles led to Oranienburg. Two KVPs who had been left behind with a truck said that they had come with their

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